

### *House Unanimously Passes Klein-Pence Legislation Honoring Memory Of Officer, Condemning Attack*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence, co-chairman of the Congressional Taskforce Against Anti-Semitism (CTAAS) gave the following speech regarding a bipartisan resolution he authored with CTAAS co-chair Ron Klein. The resolution honored the memory of Special Police Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns and condemned the violent attack at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that took his life.

**"Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 529, condemning the violent attack on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that occurred in shocking dimensions yesterday here in our nation's capital. I want to single out my colleague in the majority, Ron Klein of Florida, for his swift and thoughtful legislative work in bringing this resolution to the floor, and for allowing me to co-author this bipartisan resolution before the House today.**

**"It has been my distinct pleasure to serve together with Mr. Klein as a co-chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Taskforce Against Anti-Semitism that was founded, I say with deep admiration, by the late Tom Lantos of California, who understood the importance of this body and this nation speaking with one voice against the venom of anti-Semitism.**

**"Today, we mourn the loss of Special Police Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns, and I offer my personal condolences to his family. He lost his life while defending civilians, visitors and staff of the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Officer Johns died upon arrival at the George Washington Hospital after being shot by an assailant with strong ties to white supremacist organizations. Officer Johns died while bravely defending museum visitors from around the world, and I honor his service and courage and the sacrifice that he exemplified. He will be remembered.**

**"We rise today to condemn the violent attacks of yesterday that ravaged Washington D.C.'s permanent, living memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. For those of us who have visited, we know the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as one of the world's leading authorities on the Holocaust, and-let me say with no small measure of American pride-it has become an essential stop for every American visiting our nation's capital**

with few exceptions. It was dedicated on April 22, 1993 and has since welcomed nearly 30 million visitors, including more than 8 million school children and 85 heads of state.

"The museum's mission is simply this: to 'advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy; to preserve the memory of those who suffered; and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.'

"Anyone who has wandered those solemn hallways knows that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum accomplishes that mission.

"This attack at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is a horrific reminder of the violence that can stem from unchecked hatred, intolerance, and anti-Semitism-as well as the denial of history that is often manifested in that sentiment. Let me be clear: no act of violence will ever diminish our determination to honor those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and neither will yesterday.

"As we condemn intolerance and racism in our capital city, we should ponder today, Mr. Speaker, what anti-Semitic hatred and rage could mean on the international stage. I say with a heavy heart today-with the deepest respect for the families affected by yesterday's tragic events-we would do well as a nation to reflect: if one man can walk into a Holocaust museum with a rifle, motivated by anti-Semitic rage and bring about violence and death, what could a nation armed with the same anti-Semitic rage do with a nuclear weapon?

"The American people deserve to know the same hatred that drove this one lonely and deranged man to open fire at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum resides, I believe, in the hearts of some of the most powerful leaders in an ancient nation of the world. And I am confident that when the time comes, this Congress, this government, this nation and our cherished ally will do what is necessary to prevent a global manifestation of anti-Semitic violence.

"The best way to honor the lives of victims of hatred is to stand in the path of those who would continue the violence. Let Officer Johns' sacrifice be an example for each of us in our personal lives and an example for this nation in the exercise of courage and determination in the defense of liberty on the world stage. Let us stand in the path of

**hatred, come together as a Congress and a nation."**

NOTE:

This resolution was passed by the House by a vote of 413-0.